Demand for separate Jharkhand

1099. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Jharkhand Coordination Committee (J.C.C.) have decided to announce the formation of an Interim Government' at a suitable date; and

(b) if so, the attitude of the Go-ernment in relation thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAM-BARAM) : (a) According to available information the Jharkhand Coordination Committee decided at its Conference laid from llth to 13th September, 1988 that a provisional Government of Jharkhand would be formed if the Government of India did not concede the demand for a separate State of Jharkhand by the end of 1988. However, no such step has been taken so far.

(b) The Government is of the view that such demands arise on account of economic imbalance and such imbalances in am particular State or region should be tackled through the mechanism of planned development. Public order being a State subject, the concerned State Governments are taking appropriate steps to maintain law and order and even tempo of the life of the community in the affected areas.

Shortage *of* Judges in various High Courts

1100. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to shortage of Judges in various High Courts in the country, the number of cases are piling up day by day;

(b) whether Government have fixed any quota of Judges to the ratio of population; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take to appoint adequate number of Judges in various High Courts particularly in Punjab so as to bring down the number of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The increase in pendency in the High Courts is due to several complex factors.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Judge strength of High Courts is fixed on the basis of workload. Steps have been taken to appoint adequate number of Judges in the High Courts, including the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Clearance of Vamsadhara Stagc-D Project

1101. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh for clearing Vamsadhara Stage-II project;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in convening such a meeting; and

(c) whether this is leading to the cost escalation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) There is no proposal to convene a meeting at Chief Minister's level.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.